

Witherspoon Street Presbyterian Church

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Elder Lissette González Sosa, Guest Preacher
Leyla Sosa, Lector
Edin Orellana, Sexton

Fumi Nakamae Korodan, Director of Music
Cynthia Parker, Office Manager

May 14, 2023

10:00 a.m.

Sixth Sunday of Easter

PRELUDE

The Goodness of God

CALL TO WORSHIP (Peter 1 : 3–5)

Praise the God of our Lord Jesus Christ.

God has given us new life and hope.

God has raised Jesus from the dead.

God has claimed us as God's own.

God has brought us out of darkness.

God has made us light to the world.

Praise the God of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Let us worship the Living and Loving God!

GATHERING HYMN

All Creatures of Our God and King (PH#455)

All creatures of our God and King,

Lift up your voice and with us sing,

Alleluia! Alleluia!

Thou burning sun with golden beam,

Thou silver moon with softer gleam,

Alleluia! Alleluia!

Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

Thou rushing wind that art so strong,

Ye clouds that sail in heaven along,

**O sing ye! Alleluia!
Thou rising morn, in praise rejoice,
Ye lights of evening, find a voice!
Alleluia! Alleluia!
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!**

**Thou flowing water, pure and clear,
Make music for thy Lord to hear,
Alleluia! Alleluia!
Thou fire so masterful and bright,
That givest man both warmth and light,
Alleluia! Alleluia!
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!**

**Thou fertile earth, that day by day
Unfoldest blessings on our way,
O sing ye! Alleluia!
The flowers and fruits that in thee grow,
Let them God's glory also show!
Alleluia! Alleluia!
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!**

**And everyone of tender heart,
Forgiving others, take your part,
O sing ye! Alleluia!
Ye who long pain and sorrow bear,
Praise God and cast on God your care!
Alleluia! Alleluia!
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!**

**All creatures, your Creator bless,
And worship God in humbleness.
O sing ye! Alleluia!
Praise, praise the Father, praise the Son,
And praise the Spirit, Three in One!
Alleluia! Alleluia!
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!**

CALL TO CONFESSION (Based on Matthew 7:7)

Jesus said: *Ask and it will be given you; seek, and you will find;*

knock, and it will be opened to you.
Let us open our lives to God's healing presence,
forsaking all sin,
and all that separates us from God and neighbor,
that we may receive mercy
and become ministers of God's grace. Let us pray.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**Eternal God, in whom we live and move and have our being,
whose face is hidden from us by our sins,
and whose mercy we forget in the blindness of our hearts:
Cleanse us from all our offenses,
and deliver us from proud thoughts and vain desires,
that with reverent and humble hearts we may draw near to you,
confessing our faults, confiding in your grace,
and finding in you our refuge and strength;
through Jesus Christ your Son. Amen.**

ASSURANCE OF PARDON (From Isaiah 42:8-9)

I am the Lord, that is my name;
my glory I give to no other, nor my praise to idols.
**See, the former things have come to pass, and new things I now
declare; before they spring forth, I tell you of them.**

Friends in Christ, hear and believe the good news of the Gospel.
In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven. Thanks be to God.

*GLORIA PATRI

(PH #579)

**Glory be to the Father, and to the Son,
and to the Holy Ghost.
As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be,
world without end. Amen, Amen.**

WELCOME OF GUESTS AND VISITORS

PASSING OF THE PEACE

May the Peace of Christ be with you!
And also with you!

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

**God of mercy,
you promised never to break your covenant with us.
Amid all the changing words of our generation,
speak your eternal word that does not change.
Then may we respond to your gracious promises
with faithful and obedient lives;
through our Lord Jesus Christ. Amen.**

FIRST READING

Galatians 6:1-10

¹My friends, if anyone is detected in a transgression, you who have received the Spirit should restore such a one in a spirit of gentleness. Take care that you yourselves are not tempted. ²Bear one another's burdens, and in this way you will fulfill the law of Christ. ³For if those who are nothing think they are something, they deceive themselves. ⁴All must test their own work; then that work, rather than their neighbor's work, will become a cause for pride. ⁵For all must carry their own loads. ⁶Those who are taught the word must share in all good things with their teacher. ⁷Do not be deceived; God is not mocked, for you reap whatever you sow. ⁸If you sow to your own flesh, you will reap corruption from the flesh; but if you sow to the Spirit, you will reap eternal life from the Spirit. ⁹So let us not grow weary in doing what is right, for we will reap at harvest-time, if we do not give up. ¹⁰So then, whenever we have an opportunity, let us work for the good of all, and especially for those of the family of faith.

SECOND READING

Exodus 1:12-21

¹²But the more they were oppressed, the more they multiplied and spread, so that the Egyptians came to dread the Israelites. ¹³The Egyptians became ruthless in imposing tasks on the Israelites, ¹⁴and made their lives bitter with hard service in mortar and brick and in every kind of field labor. They were ruthless in all the tasks that they imposed on them.

¹⁵The king of Egypt said to the Hebrew midwives, one of whom was named Shiphrah and the other Puah, ¹⁶"When you act as midwives to the Hebrew women, and see them on the birthstool, if it is a boy, kill him; but if it is a girl, she shall live." ¹⁷But the midwives feared God; they did not do as the king of Egypt commanded them, but they let the

boys live. ¹⁸So the king of Egypt summoned the midwives and said to them, “Why have you done this, and allowed the boys to live?” ¹⁹The midwives said to Pharaoh, “Because the Hebrew women are not like the Egyptian women; for they are vigorous and give birth before the midwife comes to them.” ²⁰So God dealt well with the midwives; and the people multiplied and became very strong. ²¹And because the midwives feared God, he gave them families.

SERMON

Defying Great Power

Lisette González Sosa

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

(from A Brief Statement of Faith)

**We trust in God,
whom Jesus called Abba, Father.**

In sovereign love God created the world good and makes everyone equally in God’s image, male and female, of every race and people, to live as one community.

**But we rebel against God; we hide from our Creator.
Ignoring God’s commandments,
we violate the image of God in others and ourselves, accept lies as truth, exploit neighbor and nature, and threaten death to the planet entrusted to our care.
We deserve God’s condemnation.**

**Yet God acts with justice and mercy to redeem creation.
In everlasting love, the God of Abraham and Sarah chose a covenant people to bless all families of the earth.
Hearing their cry,
God delivered the children of Israel from the house of bondage.**

**Loving us still,
God makes us heirs with Christ of the covenant.
Like a mother who will not forsake her nursing child, like a father who runs to welcome the prodigal home, God is faithful still.**

CALL FOR THE OFFERING

Humbled by God’s generosity, let us offer our gifts to God and God’s ministries through Christ’s church.

OFFERTORY SELECTION

Love Lifted Me (AAHH #504)

**I was sinking deep in sin,
Far from the peaceful shore,
Very deeply stained within,
Sinking to rise no more;
But the Master of the sea
Heard my despairing cry,
From the waters lifted me –
Now safe am I.**

**All my heart to Him I give,
Ever to Him I'll cling,
In His blessed presence live,
Ever His praises sing.
Love so mighty and so true
Merits my soul's best songs;
Faithful, loving service, too,
To Him belongs.**

**Souls in danger, look above,
Jesus completely saves;
He will lift you by His love
Out of the angry waves.
He's the Master of the sea,
Billows His will obey;
He your Savior wants to be –
Be saved today.**

**REFRAIN:
Love lifted even me,
Love lifted even me,
When nothing else could help,
Love lifted me;
Love lifted even me,
Love lifted even me,
When nothing else could help,
Love lifted me.**

DOXOLOGY

**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
Praise God, all creatures here below;
Praise God above, ye heavenly host;
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.
Amen.**

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

God, you meet our needs and transform us for service. Accept these gifts as signs of our gratitude and our commitment to witness to Christ's ministry in your world. Amen.

ANNOUNCEMENTS / INVITATION TO FELLOWSHIP

The History of Mothers and Tribute to Our Mothers

Leyla Sosa

SPECIAL HYMN

Faith of Our Mothers (AAHH #410)

**Faith of our mothers, living yet
In cradle song and bedtime prayer,
In nurs'ry love and fireside love,
Thy presence still pervades the air:
Faith of our mothers, living faith,
We will be true to thee till death.**

**Faith of our mothers, lavish faith,
The fount of childhood's trust and grace,
O may thy consecration prove
The well-spring of a nobler race:
Faith of our mothers, lavish faith,
We will be true to thee till death.**

**Faith of our mothers, guiding faith,
For youthful longing— youthful doubt,
How blurred our vision, blind our way,
Thy providential care without:
Faith of our mothers, guiding faith,
We will be true to thee till death.**

**Faith of our mothers, Christian faith,
In truth beyond our man-made creeds,**

**Still serve the home and save the church,
And breathe thy spirit through our deeds:
Faith of our mothers, Christian faith,
We will be true to thee till death.**

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE and THE LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory, forever. Amen.

SENDING HYMN

Be My Thou Vision (PH#339)

**Be Thou my vision, O Lord of my heart;
Naught be all else to me, save that Thou art--
Thou my best thought, by day or by night,
Waking or sleeping, Thy presence my light.**

**Riches I heed not, nor man's empty praise,
Thou mine inheritance, now and always:
Thou and Thou only, first in my heart,
Great God of heaven, my treasure Thou art.**

**Be Thou my wisdom, and Thou my true word;
I ever with Thee and Thou with me, Lord;
Heart of my own heart, whatever befall,
Still be my vision, O Ruler of all.**

BENEDICTION

AMEN

Traditional

POSTLUDE

At the Cross



Today's liturgy was created by Lauren McFeaters and Teri McDowell Ott, as published in *The Presbyterian Outlook*.

**OFFICE HOURS 112 WITHERSPOON ST.
M-F 10:00 A.M. - 2:00 P.M.**

The CDC's most recent COVID Community Levels for Mercer County remain Low. Witherspoon's COVID protocols for in-church worship service going forward are that **masks are optional for in church worship for low risk parishioners and are highly recommended for people at high risk for severe illness in consultation with their health care providers.** Hand sanitizing before entering the sanctuary and social distancing within each pew such as sitting on the ends or in the middle of a pew are in effect. Self health screening at home is encouraged prior to worship. If you are not well, please stay at home and contact your healthcare provider. Witherspoon will continue to monitor our COVID Community Levels weekly and update our protocols when the levels change.



WELCOME – The Elders and Deacons of Witherspoon warmly welcome all worshippers. Our fellowship is enriched by your presence. If you do not have a church home of your own, we do sincerely invite you to be a part of our fellowship. Please contact the church office if you are interested in church membership or if you want to be added to the church e-mail distribution list. (witherspoon@verizon.net or 609-924-1666)



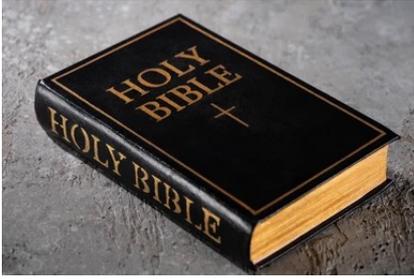
WE HAVE A FACEBOOK PAGE! “Like” our Facebook page (http://www.facebook.com/WitherspoonStreetChurch)

to get the latest updates on your wall. Share your WSPC comments, photos and videos. If you want pictures added or notices posted please send an email to the church office (witherspoon@verizon.net).

NEED HELP? Through generous donations by members and friends of Witherspoon, **THE DEACON BOARD** has resources available to provide monetary relief for members of our congregation who need **FINANCIAL SUPPORT** due to an extended illness, loss of a job, or other circumstances that are creating a difficult financial situation. We encourage you to let your deacon, the pastor, or an elder know if you, or a family member, needs financial assistance.

IN APPRECIATION FOR THEIR SERVICE

Our Junior Ushers Cecily Sosa and Jermaine Meisel and our Tech Media Team



SATURDAY MORNING BIBLE STUDY

We invite you to connect with us each Saturday morning at 10 a.m. to study and discuss scripture. All are welcome to be with us as we learn together.

May 13 Isaiah Chapters 17, 18, 19:16-24

May 20 Isaiah 36 & 37



FELLOWSHIP HOUR BIRTHDAY AND ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATIONS will be held Sunday **May 28** immediately following Worship Service. If you are celebrating a Birthday or Anniversary in May, the Deacons invite you, your family, and friends to join us in celebrating you and your important event on this the last Sunday of your special event month.



GUEST PREACHER LISSETTE GONZALEZ SOSA

Lissette González Sosa is a fourth-year dual degree student at Princeton Theological Seminary. Lissette has worked in social services for twenty years, mainly with youth, farmworkers, and immigrant populations. Lissette is a candidate for ministry with the PC(USA) and a member of la Iglesia Presbiteriana Hispana Bet-el in Vineland, NJ. Lissette is the Northeast representative for several task forces at the General Assembly PC(USA). Lissette has three beautiful daughters, Lisby, Leyla, and Cecily, with her husband Mario, who is now with the Lord. Pray with Lissette and her family as the Lord directs the next steps in their journey.